

To: Stoy, Alyse[Stoy.Alyse@epa.gov]; Slugantz, Lynn[Slugantz.Lynn@epa.gov]
From: Cozad, David
Sent: Wed 12/11/2013 9:14:45 PM
Subject: FW: OPA Daily Digest - 12/10/13

See story below – headline is “**E&E Daily - Agency plans to drastically scale back enforcement**”

From: Thomas, Hattie
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2013 4:08 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest - 12/10/13
Importance: High

OPA Daily Digest for 12/10/13

Congressional Inquiries:

None

State Government Inquiries:

Rep. Bill Otto (Mo) 11/29/13: Questions on the Westlake Site. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

Rep. Bill Otto (Mo) 12/9/13: Question on *National Remedy Review Board (NRRB)* communications.
Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

Legislative Liaison - Office of the Director (Iowa) 12/9/13: Question on the Webinar – EPA Strategic Plan. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

Press Inquiries:

Wall Street Journal – John Emshwiller – 12/6/13 – Follow-up questions about West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

KMOV Channel 4, St. Louis – Russell Kinsaul – 12/9/13 – Questions about West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

KMOX Radio, St. Louis – Kevin Killeen - 12/9/13 – Questions about West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

KTVI Channel 2, St. Louis – Bonita Cornute - 12/9/13 – Questions about West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

KSDK Channel 5, St. Louis – Grant Bissell - 12/9/13 – Questions about West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

Christian Broadcast Network – Catlin Burke – 12/6/13 – Request for interview at the regional office (Dec. 16/17) regarding Doe Run shutting down primary lead smelter in Herculaneum. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

St. Louis Post-Dispatch – Leah Thorsen – 12/10/13 – Questions about lead emissions and NAAQS in relationship to closing of Herculaneum smelter. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

Ames Tribune – Gavin Aronsen – 12/10/13 – Questions about power plant technology to convert plants from coal to gas, including refuse drive fuel, resource recovery and gasification. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

St. Louis Public Radio – Veronique LaCapra – 12/10/13 – Questions about environmental justice grant for Neighborhood Greenways project. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

St. Louis Post-Dispatch – Jeff Tomich – 12/10/13 - Questions about environmental justice grant for Neighborhood Greenways project. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - More radioactive waste found at Bridgeton landfill - 12/10/13 - Additional radioactive material has been discovered at a Bridgeton landfill, according to Florissant City Engineer Tim Barrett. http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/more-radioactive-waste-found-at-bridgeton-landfill/article_370a9595-daa9-5efa-84ac-3950739e2d39.html

Washington Post - Supreme Court to hear arguments Tuesday over EPA pollution rules - 12/10/13 - The Supreme Court will hear arguments Tuesday on whether the Environmental Protection Agency can require Midwestern states to cut the smog and soot that travels from their power plants downwind to Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states. http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/supreme-court-to-hear-arguments-tuesday-over-epa-pollution-rules/2013/12/09/5417b50a-60ee-11e3-8beb-3f9a9942850f_story.html

Sedalia News Journal (Mo.) - 'Don't Mess With the RFS!' Mo corn growers tell EPA - 12/5/13 - "I could be working on the farm today, but thought it was more important to come to Washington, D.C., because I support ethanol and have seen how important the RFS is to all of agriculture and to America," Dwayne Schad, a corn and livestock producer from Versailles, Mo., said during his testimony. <http://sedalianewsjournal.com/2013/12/06/dont-mess-with-the-rfs-mo-corn-growers-tell-epa/>

Des Moines Register - Iowa CCI offers legislative agenda seeking greater environmental oversight, higher minimum wage - 12/9/13 - Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement, the liberal advocacy group, on Tuesday called for far-reaching reforms to agriculture, labor, elections and more in an agenda for the Iowa Legislature. <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2013/12/10/iowa-cci-offers-legislative-agenda-seeking-greater-environmental-oversight-higher-minimum-wage/>

St. Louis Public Radio - More Radioactive Material Detected At West Lake Landfill - 12/10/13 - More radioactive material has been found at the West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton. The material was detected during radioactivity testing in preparation for the construction of a trench. That trench will separate radioactive waste at the West Lake Landfill from an underground fire smoldering at the adjacent Bridgeton Landfill. <http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/more-radioactive-material-detected-west-lake-landfill>

KMOV Ch. 4 St. Louis - More radioactive waste discovered at Bridgeton landfill - 12/10/13 - More radioactive material has been discovered at a Bridgeton sanitary landfill that's bothered nearby residents due to its stinky smell, according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. <http://www.kmov.com/news/local/More-radioactive-waste-discovered-at-Bridgeton-landfill-235228621.html>

Kansas City Star - KC company fined for illegally transporting hazardous waste - 12/10/13 - A
Kansas City company has pleaded guilty to federal charges of illegally transporting hazardous waste. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Missouri says the company, Z-Group, has to pay a \$50,000 fine and about \$37,000 in restitution for the cleanup.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2013/12/10/4682825/kc-company-fined-for-illegally.html>

Associated Press - Court looks at EPA rule on cross-state pollution - 12/10/13 - The Supreme Court
indicated Tuesday it could breathe new life into a federal rule requiring states to reduce power plant pollution from the South and Midwest that fouls the air in the eastern U.S.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2013/12/10/4683255/court-looks-at-epa-rule-on-cross.html>

Des Moines Register - Iowa river advocates push lawmakers for restoration investment - 12/10/13 -
An environmental group asked lawmakers studying Iowa waterways today to provide \$300,000 in the next legislative session to help create a plan to restore Iowa rivers.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20131210/BUSINESS01/312100102/1029/>

Farm Bureau (release) - Northey Budget Request Focuses on Water Quality - 12/10/13 - Iowa
Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey today requested \$6.65 million for the Iowa water quality initiative and \$1 million to support urban conservation in a public meeting with Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds as part of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's fiscal 2015 budget request. <http://www.iowafarmbureau.com/articles/106431/northey-budget-request-focuses-on-water-quality>

Des Moines Register - Iowa Democrats top Republicans on food and farm policy votes, study concludes - 12/10/13 - Iowa's Democratic lawmakers in Washington were more supportive of food and farm policy issues than their GOP counterparts, according to a study by a liberal policy group released Tuesday. <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2013/12/10/iowa-democrats-top-republicans-on-food-and-farm-policy-votes-study-concludes/>

Kansas City Star - GSA bringing 900 employees to Two Pershing Square near Union Station - 12/9/13 - The federal government has picked Two Pershing Square, an office building near Union Station, to be the new home of 900 employees currently at the Bannister Federal Complex.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2013/12/09/4681143/gsa-bringing-900-employees-to.html>

Kansas City Star - GSA's good news/bad news for downtown KC - 12/9/13 - The GSA's decision once again highlights the fact that Kansas City's downtown is spread out, much like the entire city is. In some ways, though, it's not as big a victory as it might have been.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2013/12/09/4681382/gsas-good-newsbad-news-for-downtown.html>

Kansas City Business Journal - Last Bannister Federal Complex tenant plans move - 12/10/13 -
The last remaining piece of the Bannister Federal Complex is expected to find a new home by fall 2015, The Kansas City Star reports. http://www.bizjournals.com/kansascity/blog/morning_call/2013/12/last-bannister-federal-complex-tenant.html

Kansas City Business Journal - GSA will address parking costs of move to Two Pershing Square - 12/10/13 -
More than 100 General Services Administration employees crowded into an auditorium at the Bannister Federal Complex on Monday afternoon to hear about the new home they and about 800 co-workers will start moving into late next year. <http://www.bizjournals.com/kansascity/news/2013/12/09/gsa-to-address-parking-costs-of-move.html>

Des Moines Register - Anti-ethanol groups urge Congress to end "harmful" biofuels mandate - 12/9/13 -
Food, dairy and environmental groups said Congress needs to move forward with legislation to end a mandate requiring ethanol to be blended into the country's gasoline supply. <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2013/12/09/anti-ethanol-groups-urge-congress-to-end-harmful-mandate/>

Domestic Fuel - ACE to Host RFS Comment Webinar - 12/10/13 -
The American Coalition for Ethanol has announced the grassroots ethanol organization will be hosting a webinar at 11:00 am CST on Tuesday, December 17, 2013 on how to make comments to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the proposed RFS rule for 2014. <http://domesticfuel.com/2013/12/10/ace-to-host-rfs-comment-webinar/>

New York Times - Justices Hear Arguments on Cross-State Air Pollution Rules - 12/10/13 -
The Supreme Court heard arguments on Tuesday in a knotty environmental case over how to hold states responsible for air pollution that drifts across their borders and causes harm in downwind states. <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/11/us/justices-hear-arguments-on-cross-state-air-pollution-rules.html>

Fuel Fix - Feds meet with enviro groups as Keystone decision nears - 12/9/13 -
As the State Department readies its final review of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, environmentalists on Monday stepped up their fight against the project. <http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/12/09/keystone-xl-foes-to-feds-rail-wont-pick-up-pipeline-slack/>

St. Louis Business Journal - See the Coast Guard raise sunken towboat from the Mississippi - 12/10/13 -
U.S. Coast Guard response crews on Monday began lifting a 154-foot sunken towboat from the Mississippi River near LeClaire, Iowa. <http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/blog/2013/12/see-the-coast-guard-raise-sunken.html>

RubberNews.com - Editorial: EPA's plan to change course makes sense - 12/10/13 -
The U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency has changed course, and now is taking a reasonable, measured approach with E15. This isn't earth-shattering news for the rubber industry, but it is somewhat welcome. <http://www.rubbernews.com/article/20131209/NEWS/312029979/editorial-epas-plan-to-change-course-makes-sense>

The Hill - EPA sued over bees - 12/10/13 - Beekeepers are suing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over its approval of a chemical they say kills honey producers. The pesticide sulfoxaflor is "highly toxic" to bees and other insects. <http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/court-battles/192523-epa-sued-over-bees>

The Hill - EPA chief visiting China amid record air pollution - 12/10/13 - Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy will begin her tour of China on Monday as one of the country's largest cities faces record air pollution. <http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/192473-natural-gas-may-cure-chinas-air-pollution-problem>

E&E Daily - Agency plans to drastically scale back enforcement - 12/9/13 - U.S. EPA plans to conduct fewer in-person inspections and bring fewer cases against industrial rule-breakers over the next five years, the agency said in a recent document outlining its goals. <http://www.eenews.net/stories/1059991523>

Chicago Tribune - From Soviet warheads to nuclear fuel - 12/10/13 - In an intrigue-filled program, Argonne scientists traveled to Russia and helped dilute uranium from secret weapons — the material was later used at U.S. power plants. <http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/ct-biz-1210-nuke-fuel--20131210,0,6332696.story>

GreenTechMedia - Is the U.S. missing an immense energy opportunity? - 10/8/13 - Is the U.S. missing an immense energy opportunity? Could thorium be the faltering nuclear industry's salvation -- or is it a mirage? <http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/Thorium-Reactors-Nuclear-Redemption-or-Nuclear-Hazard>

BNA - EPA Rule Addresses Particle Monitoring In Response to D.C. Circuit Decision - 12/10/13 - The Environmental Protection Agency removed the significant impact level and revised the significant monitoring level for fine particulate matter in a Dec. 9 final rule. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38884033&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e4b7b8t8&split=0

BNA - Rules Before Courts Could Determine How Clean Air Act Is Implemented - 12/10/13 - Two of President Barack Obama's top pollution-control measures face courtroom tests Dec. 10 as coal-dependent utilities, miners and some states challenge what they call overreach by the Environmental Protection Agency.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38884054&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e4b9e4n5&split=0

BNB - EPA Urged to Consider Energy Efficiency In Limiting Existing Power Plants' Emissions -
12/10/13 - The Environmental Protection Agency should prioritize energy efficiency as it prepares to set greenhouse gas emissions limits for existing power plants, energy conservation groups said in comments submitted to the agency.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38884052&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e4b9a2n3&split=0

BNB - Vitter Introduces Legislation to Clarify General Duty Clause of Clean Air Act - 12/10/13 - Sen. David Vitter (R-La.) introduced legislation intended to clarify "outdated and vague language" in the Clean Air Act by requiring the Environmental Protection Agency to issue a regulation and guidance "to ensure uniform enforcement" of the act's general duty clause.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38884040&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e4b7f7p1&split=0

Inside EPA - House Caucus Eyes Multiple Legislative Steps To Boost Algae-Based Fuels - 12/10/13 - Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA), co-chair of a new Congressional Algae Caucus, says lawmakers in support of algae-based biofuels are weighing a number of legislative steps to promote the fuels.

<http://cleanenergyreport.com/201312102455315/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/house-caucus-eyes-multiple-legislative-steps-to-boost-algae-based-fuels/menu-id-202.html>

Inside EPA - Facing Petition Deadline, EPA Crafts Pesticide Drift, Volatilization Risk Papers -

12/10/13 - Facing a court deadline, EPA is preparing to release draft science policy papers that will detail new methodologies for officials weighing pesticide registration decisions to assess bystanders' risks from, and limit their exposures to, spray drift and volatilization from the chemicals' application.

<http://insideepa.com/Risk-Policy-Report/Risk-Policy-Report-12/10/2013/facing-petition-deadline-epa-crafts-pesticide-drift-volatilization-risk-papers/menu-id-130.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Aims To Dismiss Suit Seeking AFO Air Rules - 12/10/13 - EPA is asking a federal district court to reject a lawsuit filed by four Iowa residents who are trying to force EPA to craft first-time limits on particulate matter and other air pollutants emitted by animal feeding operations (AFOs).

<http://insideepa.com/201312092455249/EPA-Blog/The-Inside-Story/epa-aims-to-dismiss-suit-seeking-afo-air-rules/menu-id-97.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

Trailnet, EPA Launch Neighborhood Greenways St. Louis – 12/10/13 – Contact: David Bryan, 7433

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

***12/12/13** – Meet with representatives from Syntex Agribusiness, Regional Office. Contact: Cecilia Tapia, 7733

***12/12/13** – Meet with representatives from Republic Services, Regional Office. Contact: Cecilia Tapia, 7733

-

12/13/13 – MDNR All Hands Meeting – Guest Speaker, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

12/16/13 – Interagency Environmental Leadership Council, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Ron Hammerschmidt, 7566

12/16/13 – West Lake Landfill CAG Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Hattie Thomas, 7762

12/18/13 – Missouri Agribusiness Association Annual Convention, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

12/19/13 – Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office, Wendy Lubbe, 7551

DRA:

***12/12/13** – Meet with representatives from Syntex Agribusiness, Regional Office. Contact: Cecilia Tapia, 7733

***12/12/13** – Meet with representatives from Republic Services, Regional Office. Contact: Cecilia Tapia, 7733

12/19/13 – Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office, Wendy Lubbe, 7551

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

12/12/2013 – Attending outreach session with Iowa Utilities on Carbon Pollution Standards, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Mark Smith, 7876

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

None

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

12/16/13 – West Lake Landfill CAG Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Debbie Kring, 7725

SUPR

12/16/13 – West Lake Landfill CAG Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Dan Gravatt, 7324 and Jeff Field, 7548

12/17/13 – Public Availability Session, York Groundwater Superfund Site, York, Neb. Contact: Shelley Brodie, 7706

WWPD

12/9-12/13 – NPDES Program Improvements Strategy and Priority Meeting, EPA Region 5, Chicago, Ill. Contact: Glenn Curtis, 7726

12/9-12/13 – Sanitary Survey, Blackbird Bend Casino; Investigation and Compliance at various facilities in Nebraska, Sioux City, Iowa. Contact: Kim Willis, 7069

12/10-11/13 – Iowa State Revolving Fund Review, Des Moines Iowa. Contact: Christopher Simmons, 7237, Nancy Healy, 7713

12/11-12/13 – EPA/Iowa Department of Natural Resources Source Water Protection With Focus on Nutrients Workshop, Atlantic City, Iowa. Contact: Morris Holmes, 7421

12/10-11/13 – Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Set-Aside Review / Public Water System Supervision meeting, Des Moines, Ia. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

12/10-11/13 – University of Iowa Extreme Weather Conference, Des Moines, Ia. Contact: Stan Calow, 7410

12/16/13 – Environmental Protection Agency / Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Public Water System Supervision meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

12/18/13 – Area Wide Drinking Water Optimization meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

Hattie L. Thomas
Acting Director
Office of Public Affairs
EPA Region 7

11201 Renner Boulevard

Lenexa, KS 66219
Ph: 913-551-7762, Fax: 913-551-7066